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MUSEUMS & CULTURAL AFFAIRS

The City of El Paso Museums and Cultural Affairs Advisory Board (MCAAB)  
Thursday – September 19, 2013 – 4:00 p.m.  
El Paso Museum of Art, Larry Francis Board Room

MINUTES

1. **Call to Order and Roll Call.** Meeting was called to order at 4:25 p.m.

Roll Call	Board Member	Present	Absent
	Francesca Alonso		X
	R. Katherine Brennan	X	
	Estrella Escobar		X
	Bernice Gregory		X
	Jeannine Kennedy		X
	Ann F. Kruzich	X	
	Daniel Longoria		X
	Belinda Luna		X
	Marina Monsisvais		X
	William Moody	X	
	Susan Novick	X	
	Isela Ocegueda	X	
	Elia Perez	X	
	Carina Ramirez	X	
	Jane B. Thomas	X	

CITY CLERK DEPT.  
2013 OCT 28 PM 4:42

Consecutive absences: Francesca Alonso (2<sup>nd</sup>), Daniel Longoria (7<sup>th</sup>) and Belinda Luna (14<sup>th</sup>).

Others present: Sean McGlynn, Julia Bussinger, Michael Tomor, Ben Fyffe, and Misty Castaneda.

2. **Call for Public Comment.** None.

3. **Discussion and Action on Approval of Minutes for August 15, 2013.** Chair began by allowing members time to review the minutes of the last meeting. William Moody moved to approve the minutes as submitted. Carina Ramirez seconded; all members voted in favor, none opposed, and motion passed unanimously.

4. **Museum Reports.** Michael Tomor began by mentioning the opening of *Navigating Art Languages*, a beautiful show of 27 signature pieces by some of the great abstract artists like Alexander Calder, Franz Kline, Willem de Kooning and Helen Frankenthaler. Provided a brief overview of exhibits, zip tours and talks that had concluded the previous week as well as upcoming zip tours, book club meetings, exhibits and workshops. Adult studio art classes have launched and filled, starting on September 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>; children's classes start on October 5<sup>th</sup> and workshops on November 16<sup>th</sup>. A 40,000 piece mail drop was completed as part of the membership drive program – these drops typically yield 150-300 new members for every 40,000 piece drop. Michael opened the floor for questions, there were none, and he concluded his report.

Julia began with the Archaeology Museum by mentioning that summer camps were successful and the season is now over. The Jornada Mogollon Conference will take place on October 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> with 23 abstracts received so far. The Camino Real Mission Trail Association is hosting an international conference in El Paso at the UTEP campus on the 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> of September. In conjunction, the Archaeology Museum is hosting 2 pre-conference lectures, one each by Vernon Lujan and Mary Lou Ridinger. Julia continued by providing an update on the Archaeology Museum building and grounds after severe thunderstorms by noting that the building and employees are safe and sound, but the trails and grounds

were destroyed. Actively working with General Services, Land Management and Fort Bliss to restore the landscape and allow public access to the grounds and trails again.

For the History Museum, Julia began with the Tigua exhibit, *People of the Sun*; mentioned that the artifacts that came from Leiden, Netherlands are not only a part of the life of Tigua people, they are timeless life treasures. Received the report from the Museum Assessment program on collections stewardship and management, one recommendation was to start with accessioning, so the Accessions Committee will be consulted. It is a goal to be accredited, but a lot of work is needed in the collection management field. The consultant has determined that the History Museum is out of space for storage and steps are being taken to address all collection management-related challenges. Final interviews for the Curatorial Content and Research Coordinator will take place on October 1<sup>st</sup> with two candidates being from the outside and one from El Paso. The person chosen will coordinate what will be showcased on the Touch City Wall. Julia opened the floor for questions, there were none, and she concluded her reports.

**5. Discussion and Action on El Paso Museum of Art Acquisitions.** Michael Tomor began by proposing the accession of three works and provided some background on each piece. The first piece by Max Weber, a proposed gift from Barry and Maria King, is a pastel on paper; the last two pieces are videos selected from the Biennial by Jessica Pizaña Roberts and Saulo Salvador Cisneros Sánchez. Images were provided for review via a PowerPoint slideshow. Susan Novick moved to accept the pieces; Katherine Brennan seconded; all members voted in favor, none opposed, and motion passed unanimously.

**6. Discussion and Action on Selecting a Member of the Museums and Cultural Affairs Advisory Board to Serve as Liaison with the Children's Museum Planning Committee.** Sean McGlynn began by explaining to members that there was a catch at this point because the person nominated would need to be carrying on a term, as many members' terms are expiring on October 1<sup>st</sup>. Mentioned the body could postpone this action until the new board sits and gave the option of moving forward with an appointment or postponing the item. Jane Thomas said she felt it would be appropriate to wait until all new appointments are on board; Susan Novick agreed. All members agreed item would be postponed and no action was taken at this time.

**7. Update on Notification of Mayor and Council Members for Current and Upcoming Vacancies.** Sean McGlynn advised members that letters asking for appointments had gone out to City Representatives and the Mayor's Office under the Chair's signature. As there was some question about service, he clarified that when the current board was created, service times were reset in the City system. Any service before the creation of the current board does not count toward service on the current board. General discussion followed.

**8. Discussion on Interim Museums and Cultural Affairs Director Position.** Sean McGlynn thanked members for their help during his tenure with the Museums and Cultural Affairs Department and continued by saying he was taking an interim position for 6 months as the Deputy City Manager for City Development and Tourism. As a result of that, there was an internal recruitment process completed and Ben Fyffe was selected to serve as Interim Director for the Museums and Cultural Affairs Department for 6 months. Sean continued by saying that Ben would be helping with the MCAAB meetings moving forward, and general discussion followed.

**9. Adjournment.** Chair requested a motion to adjourn. Carina Ramirez moved to adjourn; William Moody seconded; all members voted in favor, none opposed, and motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 5:20 p.m. Next meeting scheduled for October 17, 2013.

Approved for content by:  
Isela Ocegueda, Chair

Respectfully submitted by:  
Misty Castaneda, Administrative Assistant  
Museums & Cultural Affairs Department

CITY CLERK DEPT.  
2013 OCT 28 PM 4:42